

North Carolina Council for Women
Quarterly Meeting
Public School Forum
March 9, 2012

Location: 3739 National Drive, Suite 100
Raleigh, NC 27612

Time: CFW Board Meeting 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Attendees: *Meena Ahuja, Kate Deiter-Maradei, Ann Gerhardt, Dr. Valerie Johnson, Phil Kline, Diane Kuehn, Dr. Julie Lapham, Jane Martin, Carolyn B. Morrison, Jenny Ward (Chair)*

Absent Members: *Robin Coates, Alexander Gomes, Amber Koonce, Karen Levert, Muriel Offerman, Lisa Piziero, Melissa Reed, Judge Robin Robinson, Laura Wallace*

NC CFW Staff: *Executive Director Beth Briggs, Assistant Director Mary Williams-Stover, and Charlotte Hanemann*

Guests: *DOA Deputy Secretary June Michaux, Christy Agner, Legislative Liaison and Becca Bishopric*

I. Welcome and Introductions – Jenny Ward, Chair

Board Chair Jenny Ward welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed agenda. The Council members introduced themselves. Ms. Ward thanked the members for attending and for their commitment to the work of the Council. Ms. Ward shared a quote by Juliette Gordon Low, Founder of Girls Scouts of America: *“The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers.”* Jenny introduced Beth Briggs as new Executive Director for Council of Women and read the NC Council for Women Statue.

II. Approval of Minutes- Jenny Ward, Chair

Minutes were approved, with the correction of the spelling of Ann Gerhardt’s name and under Section IV. Governor’s Conference for Women Discussion: bullet point: change affordable to unaffordable. The motion was made by Julie Lapham, second by Diane Kuehn, all in favor.

III. Executive Director’s Report Highlights – Beth Briggs, Executive Director

Ms. Briggs the new Executive Director, expressed appreciation for this opportunity to learn, grow and expand. Beth shared an appropriate quote by Eleanor Roosevelt, *“Do one thing every day that scares you.”* Beth discussed issues stabilizing the financial stability of the CFW’s funding, ensuring transparency and reinforcing awareness of the significant work of our grantees. The Council for Women administers and oversees over eight million dollars in grants, for over 235 DV/SA/DH programs across the state. Non-Profit organizations are fragile right now, with potential Federal and State funding cuts and these organizations are experiencing financial instability. Briggs asked the Council members to use their contacts and networks to build partnerships and collaborations with organizations across the state to ensure the needs of North Carolina’s women and their families are being served.

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- **Renewal of Board Terms and Application Process:**

Beth asked everyone to look over the member roster and make sure all contact information was correct and verify their term. Half of the members' terms end June, 2012. If you would like to continue to serve please complete and submit your application to Beth Briggs before the end of April.

- **Ethics Reports SEI Filing by April 15, 2012**

Beth reminded Council members of the required ethics training and the handouts in their packets for the 2012 SEI Filing: Filing methods, forms and deadlines. Members must complete the SEI forms online before April 15, 2012, the Ethics Commission website is <http://www.ethicscommission.nc.gov/>.

- **Conflict of Interest Statement**

Beth discussed the Executive Order 34 handout which explains the Conflict of Interest policy. It is very important to be aware of any conflict, acknowledge conflicts and recuses from voting if applicable. Beth encouraged all members to read the policy so they fully understand the policy. The Council will read the policy at each board meeting.

- **Status of Women Report**

At the last Council meeting we discussed the contract with the Institute for Women Policy Research's (IWRP) and engaged in conversation about topics to incorporate in the report. Thanks to Jenny Ward and Jill Dinwiddie, Wells Fargo donated thirty-seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$37,500) to launch this project. Beth stated she is restricted from asking for money however she can educate possible funders and will rely on the members of the Council to ask for funds and be the closer on behalf of the Council for Women. Jenny also stated that she removed herself from asking for funds, but will assist with educating funders. Beth is excited about the rollout of the report; our plan is to make connections with Women's Funds across the state to help roll out this report on Women Equality Day, August 27, 2012 through events, press releases, etc.

- **Governor's Hall of Fame Celebration**

Governor Perdue has asked the Council for Women to take on the role of coordinating and organizing the 2012 Governor's Hall of Fame Celebration, normally a part of the NC Women's Conference. This year the conference will not be held due to the Democratic Convention in Charlotte. Council members will be asked to volunteer to help with the selection process.

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- **Women's History Month Celebration - Kate Dieter-Maradei**

The Women's History Month Celebration is March 27, 2012 at 6:30 at the NC History Museum with a Voter Registration Drive to begin at 5:30pm. The Keynote Speaker Anita Brown-Graham will discuss the need for women to seek leadership positions as well as engage future generations. The program will highlight the impact of North Carolina women in politics, business, health and the law. We invite and encourage all to attend.

IV. Introduction of the Regional Directors – Mary Williams-Stover, Assistant Director

Mary presented a PowerPoint presentation of the Regional Service Update Report. She discussed the Council for Women's regional structure (G.S. 143-6.23); year round grant support services; presented a map of regional directors and the counties in which they serve; introduced the regional directors, Kathleen Balogh – Western Region, Linda Murphy – Eastern Region, Julie Owens – Southern Piedmont Region and Bernetta Thigpen – Northern Piedmont Region; and discussed the FY2011-2012 Council for Women Strategic Plan.

V. Update from Regional Directors

- Bernetta Thigpen: Bernetta oversees 26 counties within the Northern Piedmont Region. Bernetta has held three regional conferences, a region-wide meeting on August 29, 2011, a Displaced Homemakers only meeting on October 21, 2011 and a DV&SA Shelter Staff meeting on February 17, 2012. The region-wide meeting topics were Durham Collaboration for Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services and Sexual Assault legal overview. The issues addressed at this meeting were "Holistic services approach to serving immigrant victims", Criminal vs. Civil law (statutes, usage, remedies) and Advocate's Privilege. A five question survey was completed by attendees; this meeting had 47 attendees with 39 surveys completed. The Displaced Homemakers programs meeting was an open forum discussing the grant reporting process and strengthening the DH grant application. The issues addressed were the grant review process and awarding of grant amounts, *what is working and what is not*. This meeting had 17 attendees plus to council board members. The DV & SA Shelter staffs meeting topics were shelter services and victims compensation. The issues discussed in this meeting were How to... Method of emergency intakes/screening and how the victim compensation program works. A very interactive meeting with 51 attendees and 2 GCC grant managers.
- Julie Owens: Julie oversees 20 counties within the Southern Piedmont Region. Julie's office is located in Charlotte, and her region covers areas from Lenoir County to Johnston County. Regional meetings held in Iredell County where the conference addressed shelter managers' needs, connecting with one another and dealing with challenges of domestic violence programs within their communities and discussed realistic assessments of victims. Jane Taylor a shelter manager in Charlotte facilitated

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this meeting. A conference held in Hickory, NC discussed mental health issues and internal audit issues. A mental health clinician discussed mental illness, how to help victims with mental illness, intervention and the do's and don'ts when dealing with mental illness. Beth Woods the State Auditor discussed internal control, how the board of directors set the tone for agencies and influences the culture of the agency. Ms. Wood's presentation was so well received, she has been asked to return for more training sessions. Julie is setting up nights and weekend seminars for board members to attend. Julie has an upcoming Suicide Prevention and Intervention conference; attendees will be certified in suicide prevention for their agency. Julie also informed the Council that the DH Programs no longer have a statewide network due to loss of funding. The DH programs are requesting support for educating and building awareness statewide regarding DH programs and come together to network. Mary stated domestic violence agencies have the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and sexual assault agencies have the NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the DH programs only has the Council for Women for support.

- Kathleen Balogh: Kathleen oversees 24 counties within the Western region. She held two conferences this year. The first conference was held in July discussing Self Care and Resource Sharing. Shelter managers rarely get training opportunities. This meeting focused on shelter managers taking care of themselves, self care exercises and how to handle stress and strain of the job. They also shared case studies and discussed how to deal with challenging situations. The second meeting topic was Grants Administrator training and an opportunity to interact directly with Jackie Jordan the Western Region Grants Administrator. Both meetings were well received by the attendees and in particular the shelter managers asked to have the meeting again.
- Linda Murphy: Linda oversees 31 counties within the Eastern region. In October she held a regional conference to discuss how many service providers are faced with the same issues as their clients. Linda focused on the complaints received from clients and how those complaints maybe a result from providers being burned out or experiencing issues of their own. Linda invited a speaker to review a Best Practice Manual provided by the Coalition against Domestic Violence. The policies on how to treat clients, address clients and how to make the clients feel safe were discussed. The meeting also focused on financial well being for the clients and the service providers. A representative of Home Living discussed how to help clients and service providers reach financial stability. The meeting focused on health and Linda contacted the local community college for nursing students to conduct a health session - checking blood pressure and educating participants. Linda invited a Zumba instructor to lead an exercise session. The meeting received positive feedback.

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VI. Legislative Agenda - Christy Anger, Legislative Liaison

Ms. Anger informed the Council, we are getting closer to the short secession of the Legislature, and the interim process has been active with 65 study committees. The Council for Women DV/SA/DH programs has not been a topic this session which is very positive. The Council for Women over the last few years has been reduced by a third, with staff reduction at central and regional offices. Christy discussed the CFW strategic plan and how to use it effectively. The Program Evaluation Committee has determined to include Displaced Homemakers programs as a workforce program. More information will be available through their website March 28, 2012. For the upcoming session there does not appear to be specific issues pertaining to women. The focus is on education and employment issues. Christy distributed and discussed a facts sheet regarding women and employment by the N.C. Justice Center. Christy ended by giving examples and suggestions to members on how to write their legislators.

VII. Displaced Homemaker Subcommittee Report – Ann Gerhardt

Ms. Gerhardt gave an update on the subcommittee's focus of streamlining the DH grants process. A survey was conducted gathering feedback from the DH programs on a non-competitive grant process and the possibility of equal grant amounts distributed to grantees. The non-competitive aspect only applies if thirty-five or fewer applications are received. If the CFW receives more than thirty-five applications the grants become competitive. The subcommittee will work with Beth and Mary to discuss how to handle competitive grants. There was positive feedback from grantees for equal grant distributions. This will allow programs to budget and plan better. The subcommittee would like for the Council to make the change to disperse the Displaced Homemaker Fund in an equal manner to each selected program agency. The motion made by Julie Lapham and second by Diane Kuehn, all agreed. (Note: Ann Gerhardt recused herself from this vote). Jackie Jordan, Grants Administrator discussed the grants application process. At the next Council meeting (June 8, 2012), the members will select programs eligible for funding next fiscal year.

VIII. Information Session: Report on Sex Trafficking in North Carolina – Becca Bishopric

Beth Briggs attended a Women NC event where 5 student scholars addressed key women's issues. Becca Bishopric a student at North Carolina State University was selected and spoke on the topic of Sex Trafficking. Ms. Bishopric presentation explained CEDAW, defined Sex Trafficking, and discussed modern day slavery, its causes, how to respond, and solutions for world without slavery. A copy of her PowerPoint presentation can be found on the Women NC Website <http://womennc.org/>.

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IX. Public Awareness Campaign – Jenny Ward

Ms. Ward discussed the status of the Domestic Violence Public Awareness campaign. She recognized Diane Kuehn and Phil Kline for their high level of involvement with this campaign. The Council viewed the presentation that will be presented on March 22, 2012 to prospective donors including employers, key partners and foundations in the Charlotte, to support a program for Mecklenburg and Iredell Counties. The presentation includes a PowerPoint presentation that leads up to the PSA video and a panel discussion after the presentation.

X. Action Items for the Council Members to Support the Council for Women's Work

- **Legislative Action**

The Council members took a few moments to write a letter to their legislators.

- **Women's History Month**

The Council for Women will host the Women History Month Celebration March 27, 2012 at the North Carolina History Museum beginning at 5:30. Postcards and flyers for the event were distributed. Beth encouraged all members to attend and use their network to spread the news about this event.

- **Governor's Hall of Fame:**

Beth asked for volunteers interested in serving on for the Governor's Hall of Fame Selection Subcommittee to assist in selecting nominees for this event. The nomination categories are education and leadership. A signup sheet was passed around the room for volunteers.

- **Displaced Homemaker Webinar Training (March and May)**

The Council for Women Grants Administrators will be conducting a webinar training sessions on Displaced Homemaker grant application process on March 13-15, 2012 from 10am to 12pm

XI. Open Floor :

Jenny and Beth recapped action items discussed during this meeting:

1. Strategic outreach measures and set goals for DH programs
2. Create a documented process for client complaints
3. Annual meeting for DH programs to meet and discuss topics. Organize board members by region and partner with regional directors and DH programs within their regions.

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4. Contact the High Point Police Department to discuss the work they are doing pertaining to domestic violence.

- **Old Business**

Phil Kline discussed the new shelter in Charlotte, construction began in January with expected completion in October; welcoming residents in December.

- **New Business**

Ms. Ward would like to release quarterly CFW papers or opinion papers. She suggested we share the regional directors' bios with the Council members and ask them to participate in opinion papers to fully utilize their expertise.

Diane Kuehn made the suggestion to revamp the Council for Women's Website so we have a better way to communicate with the public and make a user friendly website for public.

Valerie Johnson suggested providing information in other languages.

Kate Deiter-Maradei announced the Wake County Commission for Women will be hosting a free event on April 21, 2012 discussing women employment issues at Marbles from 10am to 2pm.

XII. Closing/Adjourn Meeting – Jenny Ward, Chair

Ms. Ward thanked the members for their commitment to the Council and for attending. The meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.